

PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION—FEDERAL  
TRADE COMMISSION

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE FEDERAL  
TRADE COMMISSION, FISCAL YEAR 1953, AMOUNTING TO \$300,000,  
IN THE FORM OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET

MAY 9 (legislative day MAY 1), 1952.—Read; referred to the Committee on  
Appropriations and ordered to be printed

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, May 8, 1952.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of the Congress a proposed supplemental appropriation for the fiscal year 1953, in the amount of \$300,000, for the Federal Trade Commission, in the form of an amendment to the budget for said fiscal year.

The details of this proposed supplemental appropriation, the necessity therefor, and the reasons for its submission at this time are set forth in the attached letter from the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, with whose comments and observations thereon I concur.

Respectfully yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN.

## 2 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION—FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,

Washington 25, D. C., May 8, 1952.

The PRESIDENT,

*The White House.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration a proposed supplemental appropriation for the fiscal year 1953, in the amount of \$300,000, for the Federal Trade Commission, in the form of an amendment to the budget for said fiscal year, as follows:

### INDEPENDENT OFFICES

#### FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Budget page	Heading	Original estimate	Change to—	Increase
128	Salaries and expenses.....	\$4,367,000	\$4,667,000	\$300,000

This proposed supplemental appropriation is necessary to provide more nearly adequate staff for the effective enforcement of Public Law 899, approved December 29, 1950. The purpose of Public Law 899 is to prevent the concentration of economic power by prohibiting business mergers which lessen or eliminate competition and promote monopoly.

In addition to the information available at the time the budget was processed last fall, experience during the past several months shows an increase in the number of both the acquiring and acquired companies with assets of over \$5 million. There has also been an increasing trend in the number of mergers of firms in which the acquiring and acquired firms produced the same type of product, which eliminates direct competition.

A great amount of work is required in the collection and analysis of information before final action on these cases can be taken. Timing is important if the action is to be effective. If a merger is permitted to continue for a considerable length of time before it is analyzed, it becomes increasingly difficult to effect an equitable dissolution where such action is necessary. More important, however, is that any undue delay tends to make the antimerger prohibition meaningless because competition has been lessened or eliminated.

I recommend that the foregoing proposed supplemental appropriation be transmitted to the Congress.

Respectfully yours,

F. J. LAWTON,

*Director of the Bureau of the Budget.*

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